



23 March 2023

## Q&A with Stephanie Thornton

Stephanie Thornton and Ben Thompson are currently the golden couple of Queensland racing. Last Saturday Ben rode five winners at Doomben as well as recently winning the Oakleigh Plate on Uncommon James. This week we caught up with Stephanie.



### **Is it true you left school during your final year to pursue a career in racing?**

I did. I had always wanted to complete yr12, but unfortunately there weren't quite enough hours in the day to fit it all in. I knew where I wanted my career to go and so all my focus turned to racing.

### **Were you that kid in class, like me, who had the form guide in the middle of the maths text book?**

Not quite, but I did have my phone hiding behind a book with racing.com on to watch Dad's horses or my brothers ride! You could say my focus wasn't always entirely on school work.

### **Is there a friendly rivalry between you and your siblings?**

Absolutely. We love to beat each other especially in a close finish. We are probably more competitive with each other than anyone else, but I'm saying that we are also each other's biggest supporters. And if I can't win I love to see them win and vice versa.

### **Clearly, you did the hard yards before your now husband Ben joined you in Queensland. What was it like moving to Queensland and forging a pathway?**

My brother Boris actually moved to Queensland before me, so he set the plans in motion. We followed his lead. I believe everyone makes their own path however and everyone's career is different, we can't compare our journeys to each other because we are all so independent. Queensland has been a great move for almost my entire family now, my parents, my brother Boris and my husband Ben, we absolutely love it here and wouldn't change it for the world.

### **What do you look at when studying form for a race?**

There are many things you look at when studying the form. The grade and distance of the race and what your horse has previously been running in. The horses settling position and how and when they have run their best races. Of course the opposition as well. Same things for them as your own horse, class, distance, settling position. What horses you do and don't want to follow.

### **What movie or TV show do you force your husband to watch with you?**

MAFS. Ben is adamant he won't get hooked on it but he ends up more interested than I do!

### What is your go to comfort food?

Definitely pasta. It's my favourite food, but obviously being a jockey carbs aren't always your best friend. However when I can I will always be eating pasta!

### Do you own any pets and what are their names?

Ben and I would almost say we have a zoo at home.

We have two horses, Dunk & Moses. One dog, Jelly. And four cats, Georgie, Freckles, Richard and Roxy.

### Do you have a favourite horse?

I have two. The Odyssey and Gotta Kiss. They both hold very special places in my heart. I had great success on both and loved more than anything when I was in a race on them.

### What is one track you would like to ride at and one race you would like to win?

I can't pick a track that I would like to ride on particularly, but if I could win one race it would be the Cox Plate. I love Moonee Valley. It's my favourite racecourse. I had a lot of success there as an apprentice in Melbourne and that would be such a special race to win.

### Tell us about a time you have had a great day at the track?

My best day at the track would have been when I won the \$1 million QTIS race on Magic Millions day on The Odyssey. It's the biggest race day in Queensland and to have a winner on that day on one of my favourite horses was so special. I would love to go back and relive that moment over and over again. By far my greatest success on a racetrack!

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## Winners in Early Thoughts last week

### Tipped by

Mishani Royale  
Navajo Peak  
Timour  
Bank Maur  
Titans

The Magician, 2-Bet Strategy  
The GM, Winno  
The Brazilian Beauty  
2-Bet Strategy  
Gerard Daffy

# Lindsay Park Day

The spotlight is on Flemington this week with the running of the Australian Cup.

Over the years Lindsay Park has made this race day their own.

As an example, the Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes was won by David Hayes five times.

But it is the Australian Cup where the stable has a truly remarkable record with 10 winners.

In fact, it wasn't that long ago when Lindsay Park won the race three years in a row with Harlem, winning twice (at \$61 and \$31) and Fifty Stars.

The Australian Cup is a Group 1 WFA race over 2000m at Flemington.

Recent winners and lead-up race.

2022	Duais SP \$7	6 <sup>th</sup> Chipping Norton \$101
2021	Homesman SP \$26	3 <sup>rd</sup> Peter Young \$4.80
2020	Fifty Stars SP \$7	1 <sup>st</sup> Blamey Stakes \$2.60F
2019	Harlem SP \$31	7 <sup>th</sup> Peter Young Stakes \$31
2018	Harlem SP \$61	8 <sup>th</sup> Peter Young Stakes \$10
2017	Humidor SP \$4.20F	2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Young Stakes \$5F
2016	Preferment SP \$7	4 <sup>th</sup> Chipping Norton \$67
2015	Spillway SP \$13	4 <sup>th</sup> Peter Young Stakes \$12

This is a race where the leading trainers target. Horses can win at a price and previous form at Flemington can be an advantage.

An advertisement for Pullman Brisbane Airport hotel. The left side shows a photograph of an outdoor swimming pool at dusk with lounge chairs and a building in the background. The right side is a black background with white and gold text and logos. The text reads: "AWARDED BEST Airport Hotel Australia/Pacific" and "VOTED Top 10 Airport Hotels in the World in 2023". There are three gold circular logos for "WORLD AIRPORT SKYRAX AWARDS" for the years 2023, 2022, and 2019.

**AWARDED BEST** Airport Hotel Australia/Pacific

**VOTED Top 10** Airport Hotels in the World in 2023

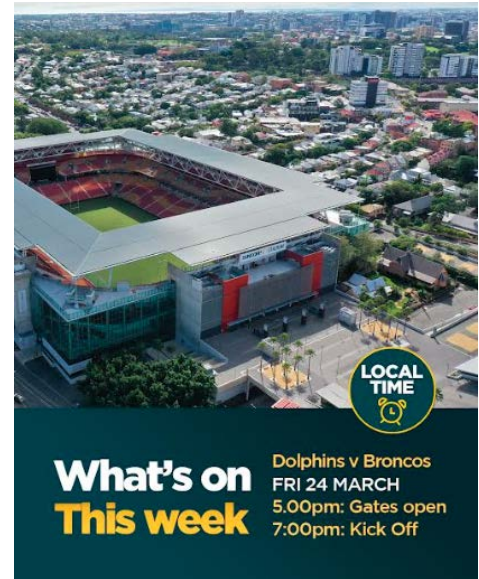
# Weekend Selections

## NRL Selections

- Dolphins v Broncos total points over 43.5
- Rabbitohs
- Warriors
- Dragons v Sharks total points over 43.5

## AFL Selections

- Richmond v Adelaide total points under 173.5
- Richmond
- Essendon



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# The Early Thoughts Strategy

**Single Selections**  
10 units per race

**The Valley**  
R7 Imperatriz

**2-Bet Strategy**  
10 units per race / 5 units per selection

**Rosehill**  
R5 Coal Crusher, Flying Crazy

**Flemington**  
R2 Amazonian Lass, Celestial Storm  
R8 Pinstriped, Cardinal Gem

**Morph Pks**  
R3 Struck By, My Khalifa

**Ascot**  
R1 Wiley Girl, Zipaway  
R7 Demolish, Another Chino  
R9 Soviet Spy, Off Wego



**Check the updated selections posted on the Early Thoughts website on Saturday morning**

## Super Man's and The GM's Best Around Australia

- Ascot R2 Cywer, R3 Western Knight
- Eagle Farm R1 Felix The Scat, R9 Briar's Kingdom
- Flemington R6 What You Need
- Morph Pks R2 Stadium of Light
- Rosehill R7 Pavitra and Prowess (quinella)



## Super Man's Place All Up

- Rosehill R3 Awesome John
- Flemington R8 Cardinal Gem
- Eagle Farm R8 Fastconi



# Early Thoughts Crew Selections

	<u>Feature Race</u>		<u>Best Bet</u>	<u>Best Value</u>
	Australian Cup	Tancred Stakes Rosehill		
The Magician @earlythoughts	Bank Maur	Montefilia	The Valley R7 Imperatriz Ascot R1 Wiley Girl	Rosehill R8 Montefilia Flemington R4 D'jumbuck
Gerard Daffy The Patron Saint	Right You Are	Arapaho	NRL Manly	
The GM <i>Finding Feature Race winners is his life</i>	Right You Are	Montefilia	Flemington R6 What You Need	Rosehill R10 Maotai
Punters Pal <i>Racing's Radar</i>	Right You Are	King Frankel	Ascot R9 Soviet Spy	Eagle Farm R1 Capital Cee
Super Man <i>Beating the market</i>	Cascadian	Cleveland	Flemington R6 What You Need	Rosehill R3 Awesome John
The Striker <i>Always kicking goals</i>	Nonconformist	Vow and Declare	Flemington R6 What You Need	Flemington R5 Soulcombe
Winno's Winners	Steinem	Sir Lucan	Eagle Farm R1 Felix The Scat R5 Auspicious Cloud	Eagle Farm R6 Madame Odette R7 Hot Spring Gold
2023 Tipping Leaders	<u>Feature Race</u> 6 Winners Winno 4 Winners The Magician Punters Pal 3 Winners The GM Super Man		<u>Best Bet</u> 8 Winners The Magician Winno 7 Winners Super Man 5 Winners Punters Pal	<u>Value</u> 5 Winners The Magician 2 Winners The GM The Shadow Super Man Winno



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